

2019 Early Stage Investigator - Associate Giving Grant Fund Request for Proposals (RFP)

We are pleased to announce the fourth year of the MedStar Health Research Institute (MHRI) Early Stage Investigator - Associate Giving Grant. This funding opportunity will prioritize support of Early Stage investigators at MedStar Health to help launch impactful research careers in any discipline or specialty that will advance health and create new knowledge.

The overall goals of the Associate Giving Grant announcement are to:

1. Support scientific research by a MedStar Health investigator that will advance health for patients in the communities we serve and;
2. Provide seed funding that has a high likelihood of leading to external grant or career development funding to launch a productive and sustained research program at MedStar Health.

Benefits to those awarded this grant:

1. Funding to conduct the study proposed as a response to the RFP
2. Grant writing support through MedStar's development office
3. Access to research expertise throughout MedStar Health Research Institute including guidance and advice in statistical design, bioinformatics, data management
4. Pre-award funding support (identification of potential external grants, pre-award support for future grant submissions, etc).

The request for proposal (RFP) process

Criteria for selection of successful grant applications include:

1. The applicant must be at a faculty/attending level (i.e., no longer in a training program), within 5 years of joining MedStar Health as a faculty/attending (i.e., as a MedStar employee at any MedStar entity or location), and eligible to serve as principal investigator of a future NIH (or similar federal or foundation) grant
2. The applicant must not have current or previous federally-funded research (excluding career development awards) as a Principal Investigator for any project funded at \$100K/year or greater.
3. The proposed research will provide pilot data or demonstrate feasibility crucial to a planned, subsequent extramural research or career development proposal, preferably an R01 or K-series award (or their equivalent).

Technical aspects for the New Investigator Grant

1. **Completed applications will be due on May 13, 2019, and notification of decisions will be made mid-June 2019** (funding would be anticipated for the academic (and fiscal) year July 2019 – June 2020).
2. **Review:** A scientific review committee will review all applications on their responsiveness to this RFP, feasibility and scientific impact, placing the greatest emphasis on potential for future funding.

The review committee will include MHRI senior investigators, members of the Georgetown-MedStar Scientific Council and *ad hoc* experts, as needed. All peer reviews will be fully confidential.

3. **Duration:** The investigative team is expected to start as soon as possible, with any needed IRB, IACUC, or required regulatory documents submitted no later than 8 weeks after funding notification. No more than 10% of grant funds may be expended prior to receipt of all approvals and funding will be forfeit if research approval and initiation require longer than 4 months from notification. The proposal should be completed in 12 months (by June 30, 2020). It is expected that any resulting publications and new grant applications will be submitted within 6 months of project completion.
4. **Budget:** The proposed budget must not exceed \$25,000 direct costs. There are no indirect charges associated with this grant. The proposed budget can be used for any study-related expenses necessary to complete the proposed investigation (e.g., salary, supplies, equipment, etc.).
5. **Application Process and Content:** Please send applications to Research@medstar.net as a single PDF file by 11:59 pm on May 13, 2019, and include:
 - 1) A cover page should include:
 - a) Title of project
 - b) Principal Investigator and Project Team (names, current positions, and roles in project)
 - 2) **Specific Aims:** an [NIH-style](#) one-page encapsulation of the rationale, significance, approach, hypotheses, aims and impact of the proposed research
 - 3) **Research Strategy** (standard NIH R21/R03 format) of no more than 6 pages and should include:
 - a) Background/Significance
 - b) Innovation
 - c) Approach
 - 4) NIH Biosketch (standard NIH format of up to 5 pages – see [template](#), [example](#), and [instructions](#)) for each investigator
 - 5) A proposed detailed budget and budget justification (see [NIH budget template](#))
 - 6) A one-page or shorter description of the planned subsequent grant application that would follow completion of the proposed project and how this project would specifically increase the competitiveness of the planned grant
 - 7) A brief letter from the department chair, also on behalf of any relevant clinical leaders (e.g., division chief, practice director, VPMA) describing the applicant's position/duties and ensuring that applicant will have adequate time to complete the proposed research and describing access to any other resources, collaborations, facilities, or resources that would favor success
 - 8) Applications should be formatted in Arial font, 11 point, with 0.5-inch margins

**Note:* The Cover Page, Specific Aims, Biosketch, Budget and Budget Justification, planned future funding description, and letter of support are not included in the Research Strategy 6-page limit

Questions about the application process should be directed to Sarah Wright-Gaul at 281-732-6860 or Sarah.E.Wright-Gaul@medstar.net.